

Closer
TO
HOME

JUNE 23, 2014 VOL. 2 ISSUE 25

closer

TO THE STARS YOU LOVE



EXCLUSIVE

SUPREME DIVA

MARY WILSON

Enjoys life after Motown in her Las Vegas home

BY GREGG GOLDSTEIN

A new CD collection commemorates the Supremes' first No. 1 hit, "Where Did Our Love Go," 50 years ago this month.

Diana Ross & The Supremes

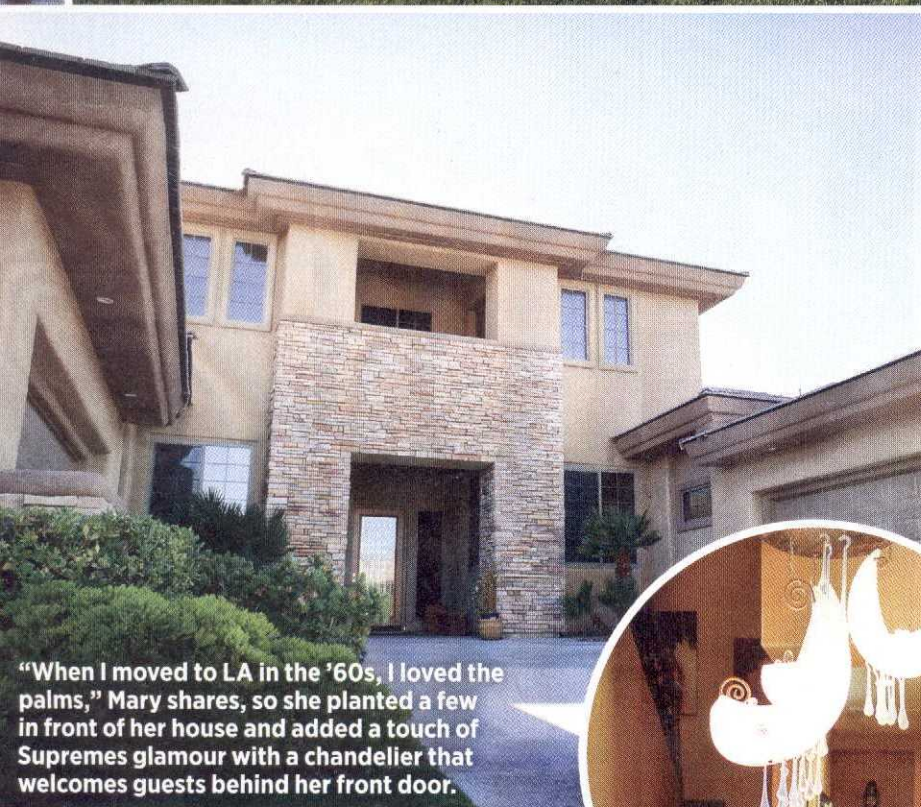
50th ANNIVERSARY The Original Collection 1962-1968

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN CHAPPLE/CORBIS OUTLINE

“I love this house. We copied places I visited in Hawaii. For the children, it’s great!”



“We grill right on the side of the pool,” Mary says, pointing out the swim-up dining area (above right).



“When I moved to LA in the ‘60s, I loved the palms,” Mary shares, so she planted a few in front of her house and added a touch of Supremes glamour with a chandelier that welcomes guests behind her front door.

Mary Wilson lives in a Las Vegas home built for a queen — or in her case, a Supreme.

As a founding member of the biggest girl group of the ‘60s, Mary was touring and living in New York 12 years ago when baby love — for her grandkids Mia, Mark Anthony and Marina — inspired her to move in with them. “They would call and say, ‘Gamma, we miss you so much!’” Mary reveals to *Closer*. “They talked me into coming to live in Vegas. We decided on this big house because my daughter Turkesa, her husband, Anthony, and the three of them were living here. I had it designed, and we built it from the ground up.”

But Mary has a confession about her 7,300-square-foot, five-bedroom, five-bath stunner. Despite all the glamorous touches, such as the moon-shaped chandelier



"We eat in the kitchen every day," Mary reveals. "I like fruits and vegetables. There are things I sneak, like potato chips, and I have to stay away from them!"

that greets guests in the foyer, "I designed it for all of the grandchildren downstairs, so I could go upstairs," the 70-year-old laughs.

If you walk straight ahead into her living room, the grand piano is evidence enough of that, since the centerpiece of the space was bought "for the children to learn." Nevertheless, with salmon-tinged pastels complementing the desert light as well as her many gold and platinum records covering the walls, one gets the sense the home is really more in tune with Mary.

Just past the dining room table is a window with a view of her beloved roses. "I don't know how I got into that," she says of her gardening. "But I fell in love with it." Make a left, and you'll see the kitchen, with its light-colored decor, expansive marble counters and quaint breakfast nook. It's as open and inviting as Mary is and flows into a favorite spot in the family room. "I spend a lot of time here in



"I sit in the family room, watch TV and relax." She also enjoys listening to jazz during her downtime: "I like it a lot."



Fun Facts

- Fellow Motown vet Smokey Robinson and the late Tony Curtis have lived close to Mary in Vegas.
- Howard Hughes overstayed his welcome at the nearby Desert Inn and was asked to leave — so he bought the hotel!
- Infamous gangster Bugsy Siegel named his casino the Flamingo after the long legs of his showgirl girlfriend.

“I love my grand piano! I’ve taken lessons — haven’t learned yet, but my children have!”



Mary has a few dresses displayed in her upstairs loft. “I have 50 in a [traveling] exhibit [Come See About Me: The Mary Wilson Supremes Collection] and lots more!”

front of the fireplace.”

When not found there, more often than not she'll climb the staircase near her front door and step into her oasis, a wide-open loft — complete with a dressing room and walk-in closets to accommodate her gowns, shoes and wigs. “I hang out in my closet,” she exclaims. “It’s more than 17 feet long!” She’ll also take time to look at the gorgeous view of the Las Vegas strip from her window, relax in front of her dual

fireplace or lounge in her elegant bath.

It all provides Mary with a lot of time to reflect, especially now that her family (except for one granddaughter, Isla, who still lives “down the street”) has recently moved on to L.A. Since the house feels so big without them, she’s thinking of moving as well. “I think it’s time for me to downsize,” Mary says, lamenting, “I do hate to let the home go, because it has such great memories.”

—Reporting by Christina Rath





Mary's upstairs closet is as elegant and glamorous as she is.

"I don't even wear half of my gowns. But they're gorgeous to look at!"



"I don't spend a lot of time in my bedroom," Mary reveals, and lately she favors her grandkids' rooms to sleep. "When I go to bed, I'm going to bed."

Mary's visiting grandkids inspired her to design a wig closet so she can escape to "a glamorous room with all my gowns and hairpieces."

MARY'S MANY MUSICAL PALS



Mary thinks Cyndi Lauper is "absolutely fabulous! I've always admired that she's honest and speaks her mind."

Mary has said that singer Paula Abdul's rebirth as an *American Idol* host is "obviously the comeback of the century."



She met Bon Jovi's Richie Sambora this year. "He was extremely charming and said he was going to write a song for me!"



At *Dreamgirls'* LA premiere, Beyoncé told Mary, "If it wasn't for you and The Supremes, Destiny's Child...wouldn't have had the success that we've had."

FROM TOP: GLOBE; GETTY (3)